

Compiled Information (9/4/18)
Received 26 surveys (out of 34)

State Council for Persons with Disabilities: Member Survey

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities is attempting to create a more formal process for addressing membership -related activities including, but not limited to, developing the procedures for becoming a member, tracking memberships, meeting attendance, participation in committees/subcommittees, gaining information related topics of interest and important issues for Council to address in the future. In the past, you have participated in meetings or other activities of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities, either as a member or as an interested individual. Please complete the survey so that we can assess your interest in future involvement, if any, in the work of the Council.

Mission of the Council

The mission of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities is to unite, in one Council, the disability advocates and state agency policy makers to ensure that individuals with disabilities are empowered to become fully integrated into the community.

Requirements of Council Members

1. Participate in full Council meetings, with a commitment to miss no more than three consecutive meetings or no more than four out of any 12 consecutive meetings.
2. Serve without compensation other than reimbursement for reasonable and preapproved expenses of participation
3. Although membership in one or more of the Council's permanent committees is not a requirement of the code, voting members of the SCPD are expected to participate in one or more committees.

Survey questions

(Results in red)

Which of the following statements is most true?

- ☐ I attend all monthly meetings in person = 7
- ☐ I rarely miss more than one monthly meeting in person per year = 15
- ☐ I miss more than three monthly meetings in person, but advise the SCPD staff that I will call in to some meetings and do so = 2
- ☐ I call into more meetings than I attend in person = 0
- ☐ I rarely attend meetings in any format = 3

If applicable, please check all boxes that are reasons for your inability to attend all meetings in-person.

☐ Meeting location = 2

☐ Attendant Care = 0

☐ Personal attendant care needs at home

☐ I would need an attendant to assist me at the meeting

☐ Transportation = 1

☐ My employment responsibilities = 12

☐ Professional work load responsibilities = 14

☐ Other = 10

- Responsibility for daughter or there is no coverage available.
- Personal appointments
- Personal family issues or have other commitments.
- Other accommodations needed/ CART/ Microphone at Policy and Law meetings.
- Personal Health Issues
- Conflicting meeting or appointments.
- Vacations
- When not feeling well or weather conditions.
- Family
- Time of meetings/ if earlier start time, would be able to attend.

As a voting Council member, what eligibility role(s) do you serve? You may represent more than one role. (E.g. A cabinet secretary's designee who is also a person with a disability.)

☐ A person with a disability = 7

☐ A family member of a person with a disability = 5

☐ A Cabinet Secretary or designee as required under 29 Del. Code § 8210 (d), (1-4). = 1

☐ A representative of a council, committee, agency and/or organization as required by 29 Del. Code (d), (5), (a-l) = 8

☐ An advocate for individuals with disabilities = 10

☐ A representative of an agency that works with and/or advocates for people with disabilities = 15

☐ Other _____ = 5

- Board member of an organization that serves people with disabilities.
- Unsure of position

- DPH representative
- Polio/Post-Polio Survivor Support Group
- Owned/ Controlled by individuals with disabilities/ Executive Order 44

What other SCPD Council or Commission do you participate with?

- ☐ Brain Injury Committee (BIC) = 5
- ☐ Employment First Oversight Commission (EFOC) = 4
- ☐ Policy and Law Committee (P&L) = 9
- ☐ Housing Committee = 2
- ☐ Healthcare Committee = 3
- ☐ Home and Community Based Services = 5
- ☐ Deaf and Hard of Hearing = 1

Would you be interested in serving on or working with one of the other SCPD commissions, committees and/or workgroups? If so, please select the group or groups that you would be interested in working with.

- ☐ Brain Injury Committee (BIC) = 0
- ☐ Employment First Oversight Commission (EFOC) = 5
- ☐ Policy and Law Committee (P&L) = 8
- ☐ Housing Committee = 3
- ☐ Healthcare Committee = 5
- ☐ Interested, but would like more information about this Committee = 2
 - Can't do all of them but is interested.
 - Interested in Health Care Committee, but is inactive.
- ☐ Home and Community Based Services = 0
- ☐ Deaf and Hard of Hearing = 1

What additional insight do you think that your agency might be able to provide the SCPD to fulfill its statutory requirements and its mission as stated?

- The education of the council on issues that individuals with blindness or visual impairments face with regards to transportation, education, employment, access to other services.
- EPIC is only one of two agencies that are certified to provide community participation to the people that they serve. We know what “community” means and have made some wonderful community partnerships.
- Through presentation or other means, educate the members of the council on the challenges or sustaining transit services in tight economic times with budget constraints.
- The more we can advocate for inclusion and diversity the better.
- I don’t come from an agency.
- The conversation that inclusion of businesses owned and controlled by individuals with disabilities, to compete in all aspects of commerce, is a meaningful opportunity. That those businesses can be for-profit, which is a full inclusion perspective. Since E. O. 44 added individuals with disabilities, it is a challenge to find for-profit businesses owned and controlled by individuals with disabilities. There is a history and perhaps a culture of only non-profit businesses being owned and controlled by individuals with disabilities.
- We look at aging adults and adults with disabilities from a DHS point of view.
- My knowledge of families of CSHCN from birth-young adults.
- In my position, one of my job responsibilities is to work as a liaison between PBH and DDDS. I think it would be beneficial to have additional focus on that population. Likewise, I think that it is important to consider the distinctive needs of children with disabilities in our community. Finally the unique needs of those living with mental illness and one or more disabilities (both children and adults) should be an important consideration for the SCPD.
- I believe the Delaware Department of Transportation can add value to the committee by leveraging its resources to help address: deficiencies in pedestrian infrastructure throughout the state that directly affect persons with disabilities; generate accessible technologies across varying platforms pertaining to pedestrian infrastructure and parking in the right-of-way.
- The mission of Independent Resources is to empower Delawareans with disabilities to realize their potential to achieve and maintain independent living and our philosophy is that we recognize the value of all people and acknowledge their rights to dignity, freedom, and inclusion. IRI is ready to work with any representative agency on this council or collectively with all agencies on initiatives promoting independent living for people with disabilities.

Please share any thoughts about your experience, insights or recommendations on how the SCPD could better serve the disabilities community.

- The current dissemination of information is great! Having more guest speakers at the meetings who are SMEs (Subject Matter Experts) on various topics would be beneficial.
- I don't know if we have someone from the council, maybe the chair speak at the opening remarks of the Life Conference. In addition to having a table, it might be good to have an opportunity to address all who attend in order to create interest in others becoming members.
- I think we need to bring more people and agencies in and find out exactly how they promote the mission of SCPD; i.e., the CILS, Freedom center, etc. We also have to make sure that we stay true to the mission. Everyone has the same civil rights as those without a disability.
- I think if we decide on a few initiatives annually to work towards, it may be a bit easier to define our accomplishments.
- The SCPD needs to continually survey the communities it serves to determine what the pressing issues that its citizens face are. We need to ensure we are in-touch with what is happening within those communities and not stuck in our own silos/worlds doing the same thing, day after day, year after year.
- More outreach to people with disabilities to become active members of SCPD.
- Meetings that are held consistently in only one location/county are not very accessible to PWDs in any other county, especially those that take DART paratransit, due to timely, expensive transportation.
- Encourage to utilize available reimbursement for mileage and tolls for people not employed by the State that use their own vehicles.
- Communication between SCPD staff and members on issues and opportunities to address issues affecting people with disabilities.
- Alternate acceptable meeting participation, such as, by phone or webinar from home or other locations.
- Somehow, people with disabilities need to have at least an equal vote as agency representatives do. Meaning better, accommodation to allow PWDs to be able to attend meetings more regularly.
- When council is advocating for any systems change in services delivered by any state agency, state agency reps must have the ability to not have their employment affected in any way when doing council work or advocacy. Voting and participating in the interest of the affected agency rather than serving the Council interest would be a conflict of interest.
- Become more visible to the residents of: New Castle – Kent – Sussex Counties.
- The SCPD retreat in June covered the lion's share of thoughts and recommendations. The primary, which I did not share at retreat, is that the existing office does not appear to have the capacity to perform all the work plus the new recommendations that emerged. There is a management decision to be made that one or the other of the following two options is required: either the addition of more FTEs is necessary, likely

including a Deputy Director OR a clear reduction of the workload and expectations of outcomes is necessary to match the current capacity of the existing team. To be very clear, this is not a capability comment, it is a capacity comment.

- Be honest with its actions, like truth about legislation.
- I think like many disability related councils we need more individuals with disabilities and different types of disabilities to be more inclusive.
- Also, would be nice to get information like a new members packet when you join that explains about the Council and all of the sub-committees.
- Set up a list of contact information from the State, County and local governments, and non-profit organization ADA coordinators for the referral. To introduce them about the SCPD and assist, review, and advise their policies, programs or plans to be updated and meet the needs of people with disabilities and people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing.
- Provide trainings to the new members, non-members and non-profit organization providers regarding to update information on ADA and how to work with people with disabilities better.
- Include and advocate for increasing services for visually impaired Delawareans.
- As mentioned during the SCPD retreat, it would be helpful to have some sort of orientation or introduction to the Council and its commission, committees and subgroups whether that be in person or via other materials. This should include a discussion regarding how you as an individual can be a valuable, contributing member of the Council. It would be beneficial to learn about the other members of the Council as well.
- Sorry-this is about the functioning of the council. I think that SCPD should explore technology options so that people in NCC can attend at least some of the meetings remotely. DDS offers this option and it is a big help for people with a lot of meetings on their calendars. SCPD meetings pretty much kill a day for someone who works in northern NCC. This might also help to alleviate the issues that members with disabilities have getting to meetings. I would also consider consolidating subcommittees, and also having them meet immediately prior to the full meeting. Not only is this a more efficient use of time (not to mention saved travel expense) for members, you may get better attendance with the smaller committees. Because people are already attending the full meeting, and their work will be fresh when they report out to the full council. This is what GACEC does. It make for a long meeting but at least everything gets accomplished and quorums are more likely to be reached. Also, DDC and GACEC require members to participate on at least one committee, and you should do the same. It shouldn't be the same people in all of the committees.
- Regarding the work of the council, I think you need to produce a newsletter or email blast to promote the council's work. I don't think SCPD has enough dedicated staff that do the Council's work—writing letters, evaluating policies and developing expertise, developing relationships with legislators and state policy people. The Council is supposed to be monitoring all of the state agencies and I don't think that is happening right now.

- Active participation with state agencies, especially when it comes to designing new technology program, i.e. mobile app for DTC riders.
- One recommendation would be to focus and collectively work on one or several initiatives per year and rally events, advocacy, and even common fundraising to come up with solutions for common “big rock” issues such as transportation. Collectively we can contribute more than each agencies itself.

This Council shall consist of the following members:

- 1) The Secretary of Health and Social Services, or a designee of the Secretary;
- 2) The Secretary of Labor, or a designee of the Secretary;
- 3) The Secretary of Education, or a designee of the Secretary;
- 4) The Secretary of Services to Children, Youth and Their Families, or a designee of the Secretary;
- 5) The following councils, committees, agencies and organizations shall elect 1 of their members to serve as a member of the Council:
 - a. The Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens;
 - b. Developmental Disabilities Council;
 - c. Governor's Committee on Employment of Persons with Disabilities;
 - d. Advisory Council to the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services;
 - e. Advisory Council to the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health;
 - f. Architectural Accessibility Board;
 - g. Delaware Transit Corporation;
 - h. Council on Services for Aging and Adults with Physical Disabilities;
 - i. Advisory Council on Public Health [repealed];
 - j. Council on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Equality;
 - k. Criminal Justice Council;
 - l. State Rehabilitation Advisory Council; and
 - m. Other councils, committees, agencies and organizations as approved by both the State Council for Persons with Disabilities and the affected council, committee, agency or organization;